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Morris offers financial aid resources, advice

Summary: When you're thinking about your financial future in the current economic climate, going to college should remain on your list as a good investment.

(January 14, 2009)-When you're thinking about your financial future in the current economic climate, going to college should remain on your list as a good investment.

"We know that families are very concerned about finances," said James Morales, Morris campus associate vice chancellor for enrollment. "However, sending your children to college is an important long-term investment that no one should back away from. Rather, families should make sure that they are doing all they can to tap every available resource to finance their children's education."

Morales emphasized that "colleges and universities have financial aid experts on staff who can assist families in making financial aid decisions. For example, the financial aid staff at the University of Minnesota, Morris helps current and prospective students and their families by providing them with relevant and useful financial aid information to support their college experience."

Students apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Apply for aid online at [FAFSA](#). It is the only application needed to receive federal, state or institutional financial aid at Morris however students should be aware of all necessary financial aid applications at the colleges on their list.

"Students and their families should visit college financial aid Web sites to determine the cost of attendance and explore all possible forms of financial aid available federal, state and institutional," said Jill Beauregard, director of financial aid at Morris. "Don't forget to research other opportunities like scholarships through businesses, foundations, organizations, churches and employers."

Students should investigate any special programs available at the colleges on their list. Morris offers the University of Minnesota Founders Free Tuition Program, which supports admitted Pell-eligible Minnesota residents and provides them with access to a great University of Minnesota education. This program combines federal, state and institutional grants to cover 100 per cent of tuition and required student service fees.

Families should call the financial aid office at the college of their choice and explain any special circumstances they feel may affect their financial situation that cannot be explained on the FAFSA.

Visit [Financial Aid](#) or call (320) 589-6035 or 888-UMM-EDUC for more information about financial aid at the University of Minnesota, Morris and for useful links to other financial aid resources.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.